

News / Local news / Breaking News

Cops: Boy, 17, fatally shot by officer after refusing to drop knife



Raw video of the scene where Chicago police shot and killed a 17-year-old with a knife.

By **Quinn Ford** · **Contact Reporter**

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Chicago police shot and killed a 17-year-old boy on the Southwest Side after the teen refused to put down a knife, authorities said.

Police received a call of someone trying to break into cars near 40th and Karlov in Archer Heights around 9:45 p.m. Monday, according to Pat Camden, a spokesman for the Fraternal Order of Police.

A squad car arrived on the scene, and officers spotted the teen -- later identified as Laquan McDonald -- standing next to a car with a knife in his hand, Camden said. The teen began walking toward Pulaski Road and ignored the officers' requests to drop the knife, Camden said.

"He's got a 100-yard stare. He's staring blankly," Camden said of the teen. "[He] walked up to a car and stabbed the tire of the car and kept walking."

Officers remained in their car and followed McDonald as he walked south on Pulaski Road. More officers arrived and police tried to box the teen in with two squad cars, Camden said. McDonald punctured one of the squad car's front passenger-side tires and damaged the front windshield, police and Camden said.

Officers got out of their car and began approaching McDonald, again telling him to drop the knife, Camden said. The boy allegedly lunged at police, and one of the officers opened fire.

McDonald was shot in the chest and taken to Mount Sinai Hospital, where he was pronounced dead at 10:42 p.m. He lived in the 500 block of North Springfield Avenue, about 5 miles from where he was shot.

Camden said a knife was recovered from the scene. A statement from Police News Affairs said no officers were injured.

Camden said none of the officers who responded had a Taser to use on the teen and were trying to detain him long enough for one to arrive. He said officers were forced to defend themselves.

"When police tell you to drop a weapon, all you have to do is drop it," Camden said.

As with all Chicago police-involved shootings, the Independent Police Review Authority was investigating.

In other shootings, at least three people were injured since Monday afternoon, police said.

About 4:10 a.m., a 25-year-old man walked into Northwestern Memorial Hospital with a gunshot wound to the leg, police said.

The man was shot in the 100 block of East Ohio Street in River North, police said. He drove himself to Northwestern Memorial, where he was treated.

About 7:25 p.m., a 20-year-old man was shot in the 6700 block of South Hermitage Avenue in West Englewood.

The man was outside when he heard gunfire, ran and then felt pain, said Police News Affairs Officer Thomas Sweeney. The man was taken to St. Bernard Hospital, where he was listed in good condition, Sweeney said.

Hours earlier, a 20-year-old man was shot in his leg in Old Town, police said.

The man was shot about 4 p.m. in the 1600 block of North Vine Street, police said. He was taken to

Northwestern Memorial, where he was listed in good condition. Police did not immediately provide details about the shooting.

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